

CLAIMS

1. A method of monitoring data exchange between application systems comprising the steps:

- transmitting a despatch control message from a first application system to a separate monitoring unit after despatch of a data packet from the first application system to a second application system,
- creating a reception control message from the second application system after successful reception of the data packet by the second application system, and
- outputting a monitoring message from the monitoring unit containing information as to whether the data packet was received by the second application system successfully and within a predetermined transaction time.

2. A method according to claim 1 characterised in that the first and second application systems are not directly connected together but are indirectly connected together in particular by way of at least one further application system and/or transmission system.

3. A method according to claim 2 characterised in that the application and transmission systems connecting the first and second application systems also create reception and/or despatch control messages after successful reception and despatch respectively of the data packet and communicate same in particular to the monitoring unit.

4. A method according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that the first and second application systems are different application systems and in particular use different data protocols.

5. A method according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that rules concerning the transmission of data packets are predetermined in the monitoring unit, in which rules it is specified which points are to be

monitored by the monitoring unit on the basis of the despatch and reception control messages.

6. A method according to claim 5 characterised in that measures to be taken for different kinds of data packets in the case of a negative result of points to be monitored, maximum transaction times, transmission paths and/or application systems from which control messages are expected are specified in the rules.

7. A method according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that the reception control messages are transmitted from the second application system to the monitoring unit.

8. A method according to one of claims 1 to 7 characterised in that the reception control messages are stored in the second application system and the monitoring unit periodically monitors the stored reception control messages.

9. A method according to one of the preceding claims characterised in that the monitoring message is transmitted to the first application system, a service provider connected to the first application system or a user of the first application system.

10. A monitoring system for monitoring the data exchange between application systems comprising:

- a first application system for transmitting a despatch control message to a separate monitoring unit after despatch of a data packet from the first application system to a second application system,
- a second application system for creating a reception control message after successful reception of the data packet, and
- a monitoring unit for outputting a monitoring message containing information as to whether the data packet was received by the second

application system successfully and within a predetermined transaction time.

11. A monitoring unit for use in a monitoring system according to claim 10 comprising:

- a receiving unit for receiving a despatch control message from a first application system after despatch of a data packet from the first application system to a second application system,
- a checking unit for checking a reception control message created by the second application system after successful reception of the data packet,
- a processing unit for checking whether the data packet was received by the second application system successfully and within a predetermined transaction time, on the basis of the despatch control message and reception control message and for creating a corresponding monitoring message, and
- an output unit for outputting the monitoring message.

12. A monitoring unit according to claim 11 and further comprising a storage unit for storing predetermined rules which relate to the transmission of data packets and in which it is defined which points are to be monitored by the monitoring unit on the basis of the despatch and reception control messages.

13. A method of monitoring the data exchange between application systems comprising the steps:

- receiving a despatch control message from a first application system after despatch of a data packet from the first application system to a second application system,
- checking a reception control message created by the second application system after successful reception of the data packet,
- checking whether the data packet was received by the second application system successfully and within a predetermined transaction

time on the basis of the despatch control message and the reception control message,

- creating a corresponding monitoring message, and
- outputting the monitoring message.

14. A computer program with computer program means for causing a computer to execute the steps of the method according to claim 13 when the computer program is executed on a computer.